

Weekly Column for February 22, 2007

Could this possibly be the final column for February? It is funny how short the month appears to be on the calendar, but how long it can sometimes feel. Especially when 20-inch snowstorms hit.

This column is set to focus on the positive. Specifically, a tremendous event that will kickoff tomorrow night in downtown and hopefully last for many, many years.

If you have not heard, the event is called Troy Night Out, and it will showcase all that Troy has to offer in a unique setting- the evening. That's right, the event will dare to do what has been taboo in Troy for a long time, stay open after hours. From this point forward, on the final Friday of each month the streets will be filled with people enjoying our City from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. At least that is what we're hoping for.

As tomorrow's event is the official kick-off of this wonderful notion, it will be extra special, featuring more than 20 simultaneous art openings, exhibitions and receptions, involving all of Troy's art galleries and several vacant store fronts where one-night-only-exhibitions will take place. More than 50 people have signed up to take part, including shops, antique stores and boutiques, cafes, restaurants, bars and clubs featuring special discounts, events and open houses, and 10 different venues will feature live musical performances.

The Troy trolley will also be providing free transportation between venues - running throughout the evening. This could certainly be helpful as temperatures are supposed to be a little chilly. But no snow. And no snow is a good thing.

This event could not happen without the dedication and hard work of many people, but most importantly are Elizabeth Young from Living Room, and Karen Schlesinger from the Digital Artist's Space. If you see either of these businesswomen tomorrow, please thank them. Hug them if you want.

Maps of downtown pinpointing each Troy Night Out venue will be available in every participating business, and at our centralized pick-up and information points - The Art Center of the Capital District and The Photo Center, on opposite ends of River Street. Each participating venue will be marked with illuminated paper lanterns hanging outside and special posters in each window.

Troy Night Out is being sponsored by The City of Troy, The Art Center of the Capital District, Metroland, ID29 and Lotus Screen Printing. Much more Information can be found at www.troynightout.org

If you are not doing anything tomorrow night, please come down and support the City. If you have plans, cancel them, Troy will be the place to be.

Have a great weekend.

Harry J Tutunjian
Mayor of Troy